



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## EDITORIALS.

—THE U. S. Geological Survey has entered on a new era of its history, and one which will have an important bearing on the study of geology in this country. We look for a material improvement in the administration of this public trust, as compared with its history during the past ten years. Major Powell, who has just retired from the position of director, tried a good many experiments which were not judicious, and proposed to try others which were fortunately suppressed. It is to be greatly regretted that the Survey did not at the outset establish a *modus vivendi* with either the U. S. Engineers, or the Coast and Geodetic Survey, so that the topographic work could have been done by one or the other of these competent corps of men. They possessed the plant, both in men and in apparatus, but instead of arranging with one or the other of them, director Powell preferred to expend a large part of the resources of the Survey on this branch of the work. The topographic corps of the Survey constituted, perhaps, two-thirds of the entire force, and the expenditures for it were of course proportionately great. The new director, Dr. Walcott, inherits this incubus from his predecessor. The problem of its continuation as a part of the Survey's work is a serious one, in view of the reduced appropriations now granted by Congress. It may be considered in connection with the fact, that ultimately the geology of the United States will be represented on maps of first class topographic quality. It is frequently asserted that the maps hitherto produced by the Survey have not that high accuracy which the subject demands, although not without value for general purposes. The production of the best grade of map will probably require a greater outlay than has been heretofore granted for this purpose. Since the appropriations are less than heretofore, the assumption of this work by one or the other bureaus of the Government already mentioned would seem to be a necessity.

The importance of such a transfer is obvious from another point of view. The department of paleontology was inexcusably neglected by Major Powell, who had little appreciation of its importance to geology. So far as concerns vertebrate paleontology, the Survey's publications are distinguished by their absence, as based on collections in this department, for which large sums were expended. This failure of the Survey to render any equivalent for the expenditure, led Congress to restrict definitely the appropriation for this object, which was a misfortune for

which Major Powell is responsible, since the management of that department was of his own selection. The amount of work done in other departments of paleontology by the Survey is much less than it should have been. It is not necessary to call the attention of the present director of the Survey to the subject. An able paleontologist himself, he is not likely in his administration to neglect a department which is the life-blood of the science of geology. And, apart from its relations to geology, it has an especial importance of its own, which it is the business of a great government survey to foster.

In the later years of the Powellian period, the Survey made up for lost time in the quantity and quality of its stratigraphic work. It may be truthfully said that during the last five years no organization of the kind has turned out so large an amount of excellent original stratigraphic work at various and remote parts of the country. The habilitation of the Columbia, the Appomattox and Tuscaloosa formations of the Atlantic slope, and the correlation of the older paleozoic beds of the Appalachian Mountains must be credited to the geologists of the Survey. So also the definition of the epochs of the Cretaceous and Cenozoic beds of the coastal plain. The analysis of the strata of the Sierra Nevada has been immensely advanced, and much work has been done in the field of glacial geology. We look for a continuation of this work; and if some of the omissions of the past are supplied, the Survey will probably have the unanimous support of the scientific world.

—THE publication of the geological map of Pennsylvania by the State Survey marks an era in the history of that organization. Professor Lesley, the director, has issued an atlas containing the map of the State in four sheets, together with detailed maps of Bucks and Montgomery Counties, with maps of the bituminous coal areas of the western counties, with others. An atlas of county maps is issued at the same time. The geological maps are well colored, and are a credit to the State. The amount of the appropriation did not permit of the insertion of the topography by contour lines in either the State or County maps. This is to be regretted, but may be left for some future survey, which may issue a new edition. An important and obscure problem has been greatly elucidated by Dr. B. S. Lyman, the author of the Montgomery-Bucks map, i. e., the analysis of the red beds which are generally referred to the Trias. His division of the formation into several horizons will aid research, and we await the evidence of their paleontology to determine the relations of some of them. Another

problem of even greater significance awaits the labors of the Survey. This is the discrimination of the Cambrian and Ordovician beds of the eastern border of the mountains. The Calciferous and Trenton limestones both exist in this series, but they are still included in one formation by the present survey, as they were by the first survey, as No. II. Walcott has already made some progress in this direction, and it is certain that many important results will be obtained by further research.